Under the revised scheme, per learner cost has been enhanced from Rs. 375/- to Rs. 845/- p.a. for primary level and from Rs. 580/- to Rs. 1200/- p.a. for Upper Primary level. The honorarium to Education Volunteers (Instructors) has also been enhanced upto Rs. 1,000/- p.m. from Rs. 200/- p.m. and the Cluster Resource Persons (Supervisors) from Rs. 500/- p.m. to Rs. 1500/- p.m. The scheme is to be implemented through State Level Societies who have been delegated powers to appraised, sanction and monitor the projects. As part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan framework, the scheme is expected to address the educational requirements of out of schools children.

Food Processing in Karnataka

*473. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that potato, mango, tomato, tamarind and other horticultural products are in plenty in Karnataka, but there are no required food processing industries; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to process the products and for their marketing?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per statistics of National Horticulture Board, the State of Karnataka accounts for 9.7% of fruits and vegetables production in the country. The Department of Food Processing Industries assist the private sector, Non-Government Organisations, Cooperatives and Public Sector Undertakings in setting up food processing ventures, developing human resoruces, in quality control, and research and development in processed food. 322 units have been granted licence in Karnataka under the Fruit Products Order 1955, administerd by the Department of Food Processing Industries.

The Department of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant and loan for setting up of food processing industries, for post harvest infrastructure like establishment of cold storage, etc. including marketing. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 12.86 crores has been given in the four years of the IX Plan for establishment of Food Processing Industries units, infrastructure, human resource development and research and development. In addition two food parks have also been sanctioned for which an outright grant of Rs. 2 crore each has been sanctioned as first instalment in the current year. This sector has been included under priority sector lending by financial institutions. The Department of Food Processing

Industries has also prepared a draft National Food Processing Policy, which is expected to contribute in creating an enabling environment for this sector.

Rail Over Bridges at Changsari and Rangia

*474. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build two overbridges at the rail crossings on National Highway No. 31, one between Changsari and Amingaon and the other at Rangia Town; and

(b) if so, by when Government would decided to build the overbridges?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both works were sanctioned in Railways Budget on cost sharing basis. However, the work is now included in the East-West Corridors Programme of National Highways Development Project.

Increase in Fish Production

†*475. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fish production in the country has increased as a result of technical improvement in the trawlers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poor fishermen are not getting the benefit of this technical improvement: and

(c) if so, the facilities available in Orissa, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh for modernisation of trawlers and the percentage of trawlers modernised in these States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Technical up-gradation of fishing vessels has increased the per unit catch per vessel. Traditional fishermen are getting the benefit of technical improvement through motorisation of their traditional craft with Out-Board Motor (OBM) and In-Board Motor (IBM), which enable them to bring an average additional fish catch of about one tonne per craft per annum in prime condition. There are a number of schemes for the benefit of poor fishermen under implementation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.